

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

The Examiner has stated that claims 1, 4-10, 21-25, 30-37, and 43 will be rejected in the next office action under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended the aforementioned claims herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the limitation associated with the use of the word “data” at various points throughout the claim. As amended, the first occurrence of the word “data” in the claim proper (in step “a”) has been amended to remove the adjective “business” that originally preceded “data.” Each subsequent occurrence of the word “data” now reads “said data” so that it is clear that the data referred to at other points in the claim is the data of step a.

Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the word “the” from before the word “components” in step d. In place of the word “the,” the words “one or more” have been used to resolve the antecedent basis issue raised by the Examiner. Further, claim 1 has been amended to correct punctuation for the purpose of clarity in reading the claim.

Claim 4 has been amended such that all occurrences of the word “data” after the initial occurrence in step b now read as “said data.” Claim 4 has also been amended to correct punctuation for the purpose of clarity. Claims 5 through 10 depend from claim 4, thus the amendment to claim 4 resolves the antecedent basis issues in these claims that resulted from the original wording of claim 4. In addition, claim 9 has been amended such that the words “business data” as originally presented now read “said data.”

Claims 11-29 have been withdrawn. Thus, the Examiners objection to claims 21-25 are rendered moot as these claims are among those withdrawn herewith.

Claim 30 has been amended such that subsequent occurrences of the word “data” after the first occurrence in step (f) now read as “said data.” The claim has also been amended to correct punctuation and to correct a spelling error (changing “facts” to “facets” in step c). Finally, claim 30 has been amended to add letters before each step in the method in order to provide clarity and ease in reading the claim. Thus, Applicants has addressed the indefiniteness issues with respect to this claim.

Claim 31 has been amended to insert the word “said” before the word “data.” The claim has also been amended to remove the words “further including a step of,” which are clerical errors and should not have been present in the claim as filed.

Claim 33 has been amended to remove the word “business” and insert the word “said” immediately preceding the word “data.”

Claim 35 has been amended to correct a clerical error, namely, to remove a semi-colon from the claim.

Claim 36 has been amended to insert the word “said” before the word “legacy.”

Claim 37 has been amended to insert the word “said” before the word “legacy.”

Claim 43 has been amended to insert the word “said” before the word “data.”

Any informalities that may have existed with respect to claims 32, 34, and 38-40 have been remedied by the amendments to claim 30 and/or subsequent dependent claims.

No new matter has been added.

Elections/Restrictions

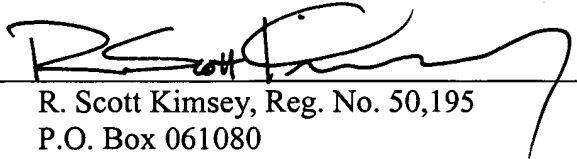
Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, Species I corresponding to claims 1-10, 30-40 and 43 and hereby withdraws Species II corresponding to claims 11-29 and 41-42 as being directed to a nonelected species with the proviso that these claims may be considered should a generic claim be allowed.

Please contact the undersigned at 816-460-2578 if there are any questions. Should any fees be necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any such fees from Deposit Account No. 50-1126.

Respectfully submitted,

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9/28/04

Date

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